



The Muck and Magic Community Garden Sustainability Impact Assessment Report 2024

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1. INTRODUCTION

This Sustainability Impact Assessment (SIA) report presents the impacts of The Muck and Magic Community Garden. This report was created using SHARING SOLUTIONS – the SHARING SOLUTIONS Impact Assessment Toolkit.

SHARING SOLUTIONS was designed to illustrate the broad spectrum of impacts that food sharing initiatives have on the sustainability of food systems. Any initiative engaged in such activities around food can be classed as a food sharing initiative. Food sharing can be growing, cooking and eating together or redistributing surplus food to others.

The SHARING SOLUTIONS framework contains 34 sustainability indicators that initiatives can select from as relevant to their specific activities. An indicator can be a quantitative or qualitative factor or variable. An indicator provides a simple and reliable means to capture information at a particular point and which can be used over time to identify changes. The indicators cover four pillars of sustainability for our food systems – Social, Environmental, Economic and Governance. Within these pillars, indicators are organised into 13 impact areas. For each indicator, initiatives are provided with several options to demonstrate their impact using quantitative and/or qualitative evidence.

For more information about the SHARING SOLUTIONS tool including the SIA framework please refer to the SHARING SOLUTIONS webpage: <https://app.sharingsolutions.eu>

2. IMPACT SUMMARY REPORT



WHO WE ARE

Name: The Muck and Magic Community Garden

Location: Dublin



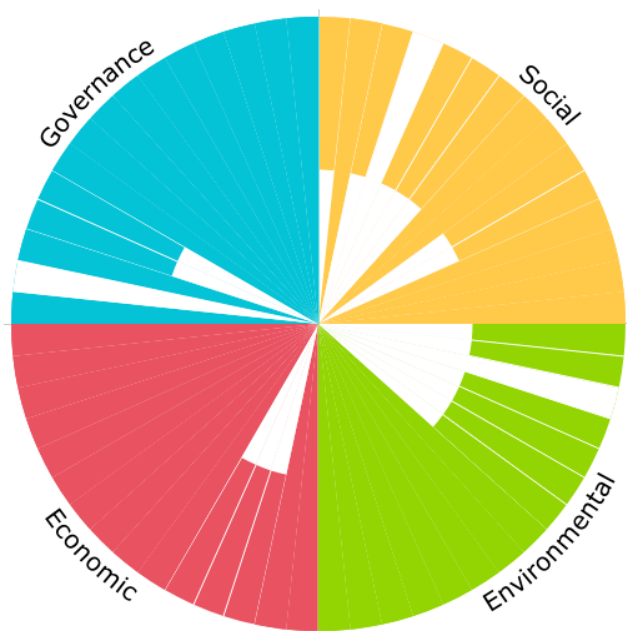
GOALS AND ACTIVITIES

Goals: A space for Ballymun residents to grow food, socialise and develop their skills together

Activities: Growing Food Together, Cooking Or Eating Food Together, Multifunctional



IMPACT HIGHLIGHTS



► Our key areas of significant impact are

- Increased access to and consumption of fruit and vegetables
- Maintaining and improving soil quality
- Sharing knowledge and good practice



KEY IMPACTS



10

people have increased their support network due to our initiative



14

people shared meals at our events



The garden compost we produce in the garden is used to maintain the fertility of the vegetable beds.



Participants have expressed that they have used knowledge and skills learned in the garden to grow vegetables in their own garden

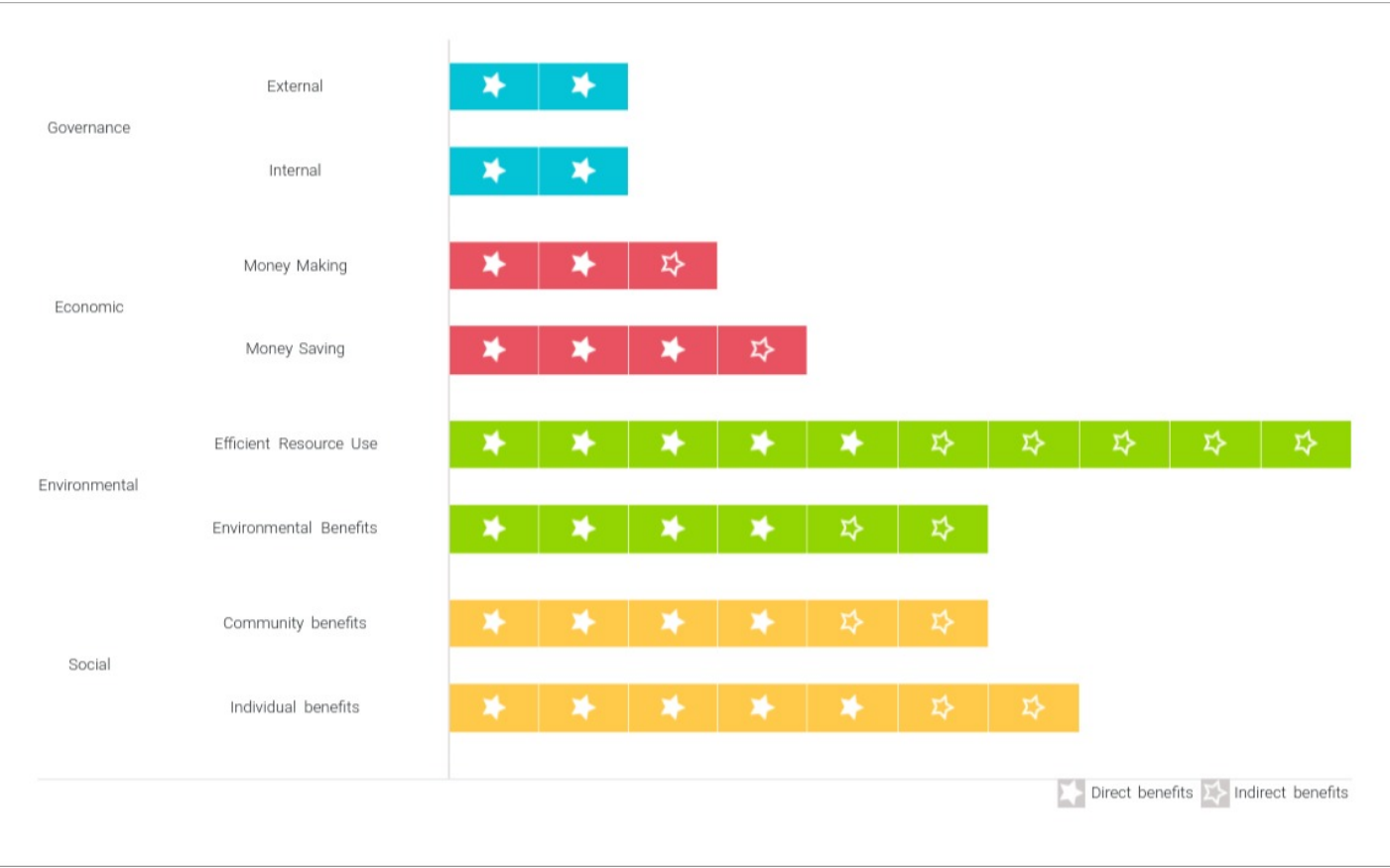


In our community garden there are people of different nationalities, Thai, Indian, and East European who share knowledge about their native food systems



FOOD SHARING BENEFITS

The sharing element of food sharing creates unique positive benefits like fostering social cohesion and reducing loneliness. The direct and indirect benefits our food sharing generates are indicated below.





HOW WE CONTRIBUTE TO THE UN SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

The United Nations uses a range of impact areas and indicators to measure progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The following graphic shows how our activities are contributing to these goals at three levels by: (1) Contributing to the general ethos of a goal (2) Making a direct impact to an impact area; and (3) Making a major impact by contributing to an indicator.



Legend:

- Making a major direct impact towards this goal
- Making a direct impact towards this goal
- Contributing to the ethos of this goal

3. SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

SOCIAL

COMMUNITY INTEGRATION AND SHARING

Increasing appreciation of different cultures across and within communities

How many people had the opportunity to mix and gain a greater understanding of other groups of people in their community (e.g. people of different ages, genders, abilities, race, ethnicity, origin, religion and/or socio-economic status) through your initiative?

20

Fostering a wider food and sharing culture

How many other food sharing initiatives are you in regular contact with to exchange knowledge or collaborate?

2

How many volunteers and/or employees have moved on to join or establish another food sharing initiative?

2

ACCESS AND AFFORDABILITY OF FOOD

Increased access to and consumption of fresh food

How many meals did your initiative distribute?

5

HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

Connecting and creating new support networks within communities

How many people have increased their support or friendship network because of encountering your initiative?

10

How many people have increased their support or friendship network indirectly because of food donations you have facilitated?

2

Boosting levels of meal sharing

How many people have shared meals at events run by your initiative

14

Share any other relevant information about how your initiative is boosting levels of meal sharing (e.g. stories from participants about how opportunities to share a meal has improved their wellbeing)

Due to circumstances the level of meal sharing has decreased in the past year.

Increasing movement and exercise

How many people engaged in moderate exercise through participating in your initiative?

22

How many people have been inspired to exercise more because of participating in your initiative?

21

Increasing access to health and well-being services

Share any other relevant information about how your initiative is increasing access to health and well-being services

Our community garden does not have links to other health projects. It is something that would be of benefit to all of the garden

ENVIRONMENTAL

AGRICULTURAL PRACTICES

Diverting organic waste from landfill

How many estimated kg of organic waste has your initiative diverted from landfill through composting?

10

How many people attended your events which were at least partially about composting?

0

Select from the following the best description of your composting activities

We collect and compost organic material both from our own operations and from other organisations.

Share any other relevant information about how your initiative diverts organic waste from landfill

Some of the kitchen waste we receive is used in our wormery.

Water recovery

How many people attended your events which were at least partially about water recovery?

0

How many estimated litres of water has your initiative recovered?

2000

Describe the system you have in place for water recovery

We collect rainwater from the roofs of two structures in the garden

Maintaining and improving soil quality

Share any relevant information about how your initiative maintains and improves soil quality

The garden compost we produce in the garden is used to maintain the fertility of the vegetable beds.

Maintaining and improving biodiversity

Share any relevant information about how your initiative maintains and improves biodiversity

To date we have not recorded data concerning biodiversity in the garden

Describe how you improve biodiversity on the land your initiative maintains or owns

Over there years we have planted wild fruiting hedge, constructed a bug hotel and planted a live willow fence.

FOOD WASTE

Food waste reduction

How many people attended your events that were designed to reduce their food waste?

0

Share any other relevant information about how your initiative reduces food waste

Some members of the garden have attended stop food waste workshops and it is an issue discussed by volunteers in the garden.

CARBON FOOTPRINT

Reducing the carbon footprint of the food system

How many people attended your events or received educational materials about reducing the carbon footprint of their food choices?

0

Select from the following any carbon footprint reducing activities your initiative does (can select multiple options):

,

Share any other relevant information about how your initiative reduces its carbon footprint (e.g. stories of your participants being inspired to make changes to reduce their carbon footprint because of your events or programs)

By growing some of our food needs, we are conscious that these vegetables and fruit place food that would otherwise have travelled long distances and in the process create a larger footprint.

EDUCATION AND FOOD CHOICES – ENVIRONMENTAL

Increasing preference for vegetarian meals

How many people attended events that provided vegetarian meal options or promoted vegetarian recipes?

0

Share any other relevant information about how your initiative increases preference for vegetarian meals.

The communal meals we have in the garden are primarily vegetarian. Some volunteers say that they are reducing their consumption of meat and eating more plant based foods.

ECONOMIC

LOCAL FOOD PRODUCTION

Contribution to food production

How many estimated kg of food did your initiative produce?

1

Share any other relevant information about how your initiative contributes to food production.

no such activities in the past twelve months

AFFORDABILITY OF FOOD

Reducing pressure on food budgets

How many people acquired knowledge and skills to reduce pressure on their food budget by participating in your initiative?

6

How much, on average, did people report saving to their annual food budget because of the knowledge or skills they acquired by participating in your initiative?

4

Share any other relevant information about how your initiative is reducing pressure on food budgets.

Participants have expressed that they have used knowledge and skills learned in the garden to grow vegetables in their own garden

EDUCATION AND FOOD CHOICES – ECONOMIC

Sharing specific skills and knowledge about the food system

How many people attended your events or received educational material specifically aimed at increasing knowledge about food or the food system?

0

Share any other relevant information about how your initiative shares specific skills and knowledge about food and the food system.

In our community garden there are people of different nationalities, Thai, Indian, and East European who share knowledge about their native food systems

GOVERNANCE

CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

Sharing knowledge and good practice

Select from the following any activities your initiative does to share knowledge and best practices.

”

Share here any other relevant information about how your initiative shares knowledge and good practice.

Over the years we have hosted workshops in composting, and other aspects of organic gardening

STRATEGIC PLANNING

Stakeholder engagement

Select from the following the best description of your strategy for identifying, engaging, and managing your relationships with stakeholders.

We have no formal strategy relating to our stakeholders.

Share any other relevant information about how you engage with stakeholders.

We encourage volunteers to have have a say in the running of the garden

RISK CONTROL

Risk control

Select from the following the best description of your current strategy for identifying and reducing risks facing your initiative.

We currently have no formal strategy to identify the major risks to our initiative

Provide a summary of any steps you have taken in the last twelve months to minimise the major risks to the viability of your initiative.

In the past twelve months we have had meetings with our landlord (Dublin City Council) concerning a future site for our garden as our present site is planned for a housing development.

4. Disclaimer

This report was produced using the SHARING SOLUTIONS Toolkit which was designed as part of the European Research Council (ERC) SHARECITY project (Grant No. 646883) and developed with an ERC PoC Award (No. 101069183). The data entered in this report is the sole responsibility of the initiative entering the data, it was not independently verified by the SHARING SOLUTIONS Team. Any errors therefore remain the responsibility of the initiative.



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